

harvested crop material passing through a harvesting machine wherein the sensor is arranged outside of the flow of harvested crop material. The claimed sensor is arranged outside of the material flow thereby sensing the vibrations and noises caused by working elements that are directly engaged with the crop material. Locating a sensor outside of the flow of harvested crop material has the advantage that it does not present an additional obstacle to the flow of crop material as is the case with conventional separating sensors. Clearly, Behnke et al appreciated this problem because he kept his sensor slim, but he did not come to the non-obvious solution of moving the sensor outside of the flow of harvested crop material. Therefore, the examiner's position relies on hindsight from the present patent application to overcome this problem and further buttresses the argument that the presently claimed invention is non-obvious.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully,



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